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DMR WATERCOURSE
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Mill Creek Riparian Restoration Project — Phase II

I. Executive Summary

a. Project title: Mill Creek Riparian Restoration Project — Phase II

Co-applicants: Mill Creek Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy

b. Project description and primary biological/ecological objectives

This proposal requests \$69,000 from 1997 Category III funds to be used toward Phase II of the Mill Creek Riparian Restoration Project. The proposed project will restore and enhance native riparian vegetation on one or more parcels along lower Mill Creek, a high-priority tributary of the upper Sacramento River. The project will focus on one or more identified gaps in existing riparian habitat along lower Mill Creek and will contribute toward the long-range goal of restoring a continuous corridor of native riparian vegetation. The project supports the objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program by focusing on high-risk species and habitats and by providing broad ecosystem benefits. The project has three primary objectives:

- Helping to maintain and restore native shaded riverine aquatic habitat for native fisheries and other species.
- Enhancing instream aquatic habitat by moderating water temperatures and reducing erosion, and monitoring effectiveness of planting and erosion control measures.
- Engaging students and local landowners in restoration activities to demonstrate the feasibility and benefits of ecological restoration and to foster community support for restoration activities.

c. Approach/tasks/schedule

One goal of the project is to develop long-term resource protection strategies to maintain and restore riparian vegetation. Mill Creek Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy will coordinate project implementation with the landowner and with teachers and students from the Los Molinos High School and the Mill Creek Watershed Advisory Committee. Specific tasks will include planting native shrubs and trees adjacent to existing vegetation to fill gaps in the riparian corridor, controlling invasive non-native plants, and monitoring plant survival and water temperature. Protection strategies including land acquisition or other binding agreements will be pursued with willing private landowners of the restoration site(s).

d. Justification for project

Mill Creek is one of several Sacramento River tributary ecosystems which are highly ranked in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program Technical Team Report, as well as in the Anadromous Fish Recovery Plan prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The proposed project addresses two key objectives of the Category III Program by focusing on high-risk species and habitats and by providing broad ecosystem benefits. The project also addresses several key stressors identified in the Technical Team Report, including lack of riparian vegetation, high water temperatures, and impacts from accelerated erosion.

e. Budget costs and third-party impacts

The total request for grant funds is \$69,000. This includes direct salary and benefits costs, service contract costs, materials and supplies, and overhead costs. No third-party impacts are anticipated.

f. Applicant qualifications

The Mill Creek Conservancy is a non-profit conservation organization formed by landowners in 1994. The organization is dedicated to a local approach to preservation and management of the Mill Creek watershed ecosystem. The Mill Creek Conservancy has effectively organized cooperative efforts among landowners, agencies, and other stakeholders to pursue conservation and restoration projects. It has successfully rallied support and raised funds from numerous local, state, and federal agencies for projects consistent with the *Mill Creek Watershed Management Strategy Report* (January 1997).

The Nature Conservancy is an international, private, non-profit membership organization with over 45 years of experience in identifying, protecting, and managing significant natural areas. The Nature Conservancy has had an active presence in the local area since 1982, with the acquisition of the Vina Plains Preserve, the management of the Gray Davis Dye Creek Preserve, and the extensive riparian restoration program along the mainstem of the Sacramento River.

The proposed project is the second phase of a restoration project initiated in 1996 by the Mill Creek Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, and the Los Molinos School District, supported by funding from the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) and its Anadromous Fish Recovery Program. The proposed project strengthens the partnership between Mill Creek Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy. By working collaboratively, both groups will bring their unique resources and abilities to the project.

g. Monitoring and data evaluation

The project will monitor plant survival annually for the three-year term of the project. Water temperature will be measured daily with automated equipment, and results will be analyzed quarterly throughout the term of the project. Analyzed data will be shared with the Juvenile and Adult Spring-Run salmon monitoring programs conducted by the California Department of Fish and Game, and with other appropriate monitoring efforts identified in the *Mill Creek Watershed Management Strategy Report*. Under the direction of their teachers, students from Los Molinos High School will perform monitoring activities consistent with the monitoring protocol to be developed by the Planting Manager and Project Coordinator.

h. Local support/coordination with other programs/compatibility with CALFED objectives

Phase I of the Mill Creek Riparian Restoration Project has generated very positive local support, particularly through its partnership with the Los Molinos School District's education program. The proposed Phase II project is expected to strengthen community involvement and support. In addition, the project complements a concurrent funding proposal by The Nature Conservancy for the Deer and Mill Creeks Easement and Acquisition Program.

The proposed program is entirely consistent with CALFED objectives in addressing the need to enhance and expand aquatic and terrestrial habitats and improve ecological functions in the Bay-Delta to support sustainable populations of diverse and valuable plant and animal species.

II. Title Page

a. Title of project: Mill Creek Riparian Restoration Project

b. Co-applicants:

Mill Creek Conservancy

Route 5, Box 2700

Mill Creek, CA 96061

contact: Kerry Burke, Resource Coordinator

phone (916) 595-4493; fax (916) 595-4490

The Nature Conservancy

201 Mission Street, 4th floor

San Francisco, CA 94105

phone (415) 777-0487; fax (415) 777-0244

contact: Peggy McNutt, Lassen Foothills Programs Manager

phone (916) 527-0410; fax (916) 527-0384

c. Type of organization and tax status:

Mill Creek Conservancy is a California non-profit corporation with 501(c)(3) status.

The Nature Conservancy is a District of Columbia non-profit corporation with 501(c)(3) status.

d. Tax identification number:

Mill Creek Conservancy: 68-0355255

The Nature Conservancy: 53-0242652

e. Technical and financial contact person:

Kerry Burke, Mill Creek Conservancy

phone (916) 595-4493; fax (916) 595-4490

Peggy McNutt, The Nature Conservancy

phone (916) 527-0410; fax (916) 527-0384

Peter Hujik, The Nature Conservancy

phone (916) 527-4261; fax (916) 527-8527

f. Participants/collaborators:

Los Molinos School District

contact: Carolyn Steffan, District Superintendent and Anne Bianchi, Special Projects

phone (916) 384-7900; fax (916) 384-1534

g. RFP project group type:

Group 3: Services (non-construction habitat restoration)

III. Project Description

a. Project description and approach

This proposal requests \$69,000 from 1997 Category III funds to be used toward Phase II of the Mill Creek Riparian Restoration Project. The proposed project will restore and enhance native riparian vegetation on one or more parcels along lower Mill Creek, a high-priority tributary stream of the upper Sacramento River. The project will be focused on one or more identified gaps in existing riparian habitat along lower Mill Creek and will contribute toward the long-range goal of restoring a continuous corridor of native riparian vegetation. The proposed project supports the objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program by focusing on high-risk species and habitats and by providing broad ecosystem benefits.

Specific tasks will include site preparation and installation of an irrigation system, planting native riparian shrubs and trees adjacent to existing vegetation to fill gaps in the riparian corridor, controlling invasive non-native plants, and developing monitoring protocols and implementing monitoring of plant survival and water temperature.

Mill Creek Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy will coordinate project implementation with the landowner, students from the Los Molinos School District, and the Mill Creek Watershed Advisory Committee. By engaging the local community — through the School District's environmental education program, outreach events, and cooperation with landowners in the watershed — the project is intended to serve as a demonstration site that will foster local support for ecological restoration. The project also strengthens the partnership between Mill Creek Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy. By working collaboratively, both groups will bring their unique resources and abilities to the project.

The proposed project is the second phase of a restoration project initiated in 1996 by the Mill Creek Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, and the Los Molinos School District. Phase I was supported by funding from the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) and its Anadromous Fish Recovery Program. The first-phase pilot restoration project applied similar techniques to restore approximately 0.2 miles of lower Mill Creek. Part of the Phase I project included an evaluation of restoration priorities within the lower Mill Creek watershed.

The project is also part of a larger, coordinated effort to plan and implement conservation activities within the Mill Creek watershed. A *Mill Creek Watershed Management Strategy Report* (January 1997) was developed to serve as an essential tool for guiding and measuring conservation efforts in the watershed. Recommended actions include, but are not limited to:

- Revegetation and restoration projects (such as the proposed project).
- Continuing support of Los Molinos School District programs to engage students in water quality monitoring and habitat restoration.
- Coordinating with private and public landowners and managers throughout the watershed.
- Identifying and securing additional instream flows for Mill Creek.
- Supporting efforts to monitor fish and wildlife habitat.
- Establishing a conservation easement acquisition program to ensure long-term protection for key riparian properties.

This funding request represents only a portion of the total cost of protecting and restoring riparian habitat within the Mill Creek watershed. Mill Creek Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy will seek additional public and private funding from other sources, including the

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA). The applicants expect to submit future proposals for funding from Category III as well. Based on Phase I experience, we anticipate the contribution of in-kind services through landowner and student participation during the life of the entire watershed project.

b. Location/boundaries of the project

The proposed project is located in Tehama County in the Mill Creek watershed of the Sacramento River. Based on an evaluation of existing riparian habitat, six gaps in lower Mill Creek riparian habitat have been identified as of highest priority for restoration. The proposed Phase II project will be implemented on one or more of these high-priority sites. (See attached maps.)

c. Expected benefits

The Mill Creek Riparian Restoration Project has three primary objectives:

The project has three primary objectives:

- Helping to maintain and restore native shaded riverine aquatic habitat for native fisheries and other species.
- Enhancing instream aquatic habitat by moderating water temperatures and reducing erosion and to monitor effectiveness of planting and erosion control measures.
- Engaging students and local landowners in restoration activities to demonstrate the feasibility and benefits of ecological restoration and to foster community support for restoration activities.

The proposed project addresses several key stressors affecting the Mill Creek tributary ecosystem, as identified in the CALFED Bay-Delta Technical Team report:

1. Lack of riparian vegetation

The primary benefit of the project is to increase riparian habitat by protecting existing native vegetation, by planting native species to increase and widen the riparian corridor, and by controlling or eradicating invasive non-native plants. Habitat restoration also increases the terrestrial habitat for insect species which are an important food source for the native fish.

2. High water temperatures

Restoring native riparian vegetation is expected to help lower water temperature by increasing the shaded riverine aquatic habitat. The success of this effort will be evaluated as part of the monitoring efforts.

3. Impacts from accelerated erosion: roads, hillsides, banks

Planting of native riparian vegetation is expected to reduce erosion and sedimentation, enhance the instream aquatic habitat, and improve water quality.

d. Background and biological justification

Mill Creek is one of several Sacramento River tributary ecosystems which have extremely high quality riparian and aquatic habitats. The Mill Creek watershed is highly ranked in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program Technical Team Report, as well as in the Anadromous Fish Recovery Plan prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Impacts from surrounding land uses have resulted in some fragmentation of the riparian corridor along lower Mill Creek. In addition, the January 1997 storm and flood damaged and even eliminated significant portions of the riparian vegetation in lower Mill Creek, increasing the potential for erosion along the banks. An evaluation of lower Mill Creek identified six gaps in the existing riparian corridor. Priority sites within these gaps were ranked according to ecological criteria and landowner interest. The proposed Phase II project will be implemented on one or more of these high-priority sites.

Protecting and restoring riparian habitat is key to sustaining native fisheries. Riparian vegetation affects the physical structure of the stream channel, influences stream shading and water temperatures, helps to control erosion and siltation, and provides terrestrial habitat for insect prey of native fish. Furthermore, because tributary ecosystems are hydrologically integral to the mainstem of the Sacramento River, they have a direct impact on native fisheries throughout the river system. In addition, these tributary ecosystems provide essential breeding habitat, migratory corridors, and dispersal pathways for numerous species of neotropical migrant birds and other wildlife.

The proposed project addresses two key objectives of the Category III Program by:

1. Focusing on high-risk species and habitats

- spring-run chinook salmon
- steelhead trout
- shaded riverine aquatic habitat
- instream aquatic habitat

2. Providing broad ecosystem benefits

- fostering local community support for habitat protection and enhancement
- benefiting secondary priority species, including fall-run chinook salmon and neotropical migratory bird species

The alternative to the proposed project is to allow natural regeneration of the riparian vegetation which requires a much longer time period (50 to 100 years) to reach maturity. Planting now will result in renewed habitat for native wildlife in 5 to 10 years and will slow the rate of erosion.

a. Proposed scope of work

Project design, methodology, and feasibility have already been demonstrated in the Phase I pilot restoration project described above, as well as in the riparian restoration work at the Gray Davis Dye Creek Preserve. Building upon knowledge acquired, the proposed Phase II project will entail a larger and more complex planting of native riparian trees and shrubs. The planting will be designed to maximize stream frontage and increase native shaded riverine aquatic habitat. Width of the streamside planting will be based on width of the floodplain and landowner requirements.

The project will be implemented in three phases. The site planning and preparation phase includes development of a detailed site plan and preparation of the site for planting. The installation and planting phase includes purchase of equipment and supplies, installation of an irrigation system, collection of native plant materials, and planting. The maintenance and monitoring phase includes development of monitoring protocols, implementation of monitoring of plant survival and water temperature, and maintenance of the restoration site (weed control). Project coordination and reporting are included throughout all phases of the project.

The project will be coordinated and completed by following personnel. This list includes paid staff, volunteer participants, and subcontractors:

Project Coordinator will be a Mill Creek Conservancy staff member responsible for coordination with the Los Molinos School District and its teachers and students, oversight of monitoring activities, coordination of progress reports, and all aspects of grant administration.

Planting Manager will be The Nature Conservancy staff member responsible for all phases of the revegetation plan and its implementation.

TNC Coordinator will assist the Project Coordinator with project administration.

Laborers will be either Nature Conservancy staff from the Sacramento River Project, or hired labor under subcontract.

Teachers and students will participate under the direction of the Project Coordinator.

Quarterly financial and performance reports will be submitted as required. In addition, a final report at the end of the three-year project will include a summary of the completed project and monitoring results.

f. Monitoring and data evaluation

The proposed project will monitor plant survival in the revegetation site and water temperature in the adjacent stream. Students from Los Molinos High School will perform monitoring activities under the direction of their teachers, consistent with the monitoring protocol to be developed by the Planting Manager and Project Coordinator.

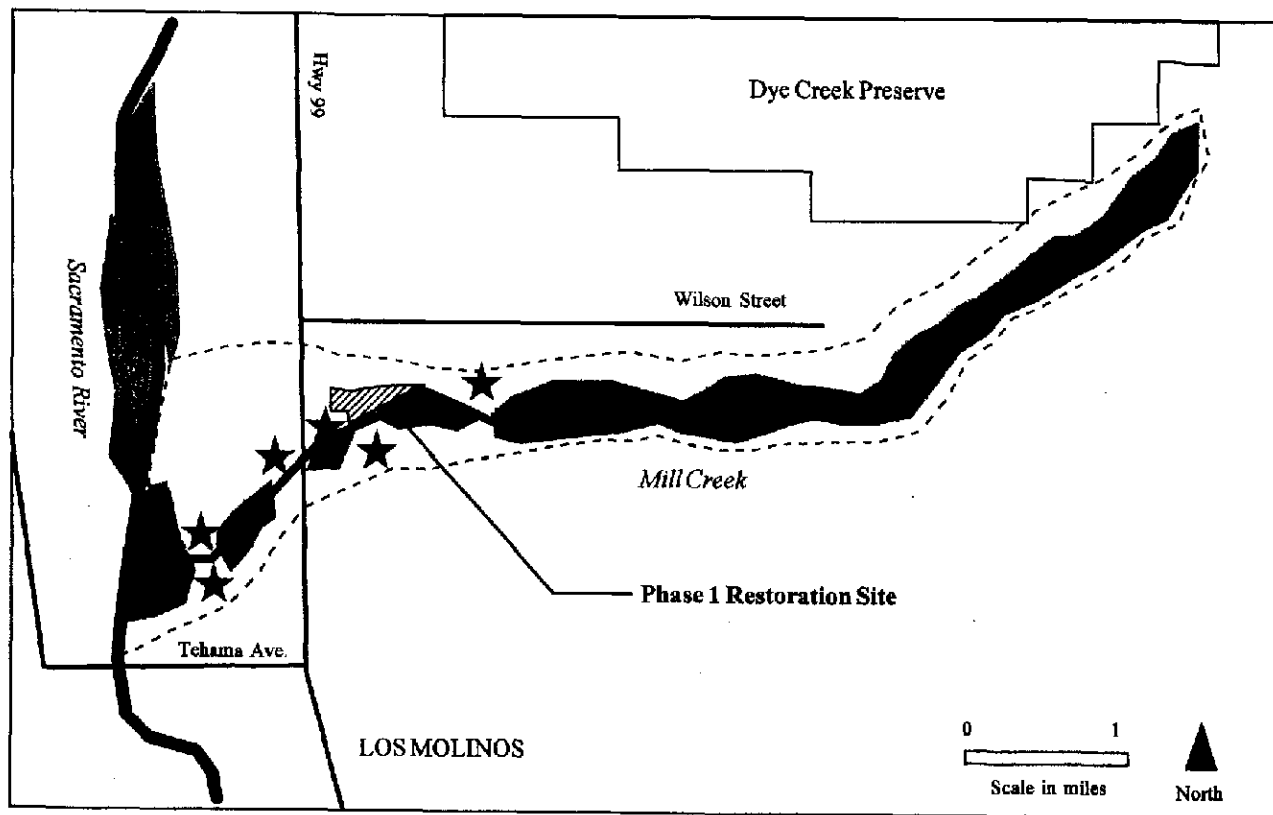
Plant survival will be monitored annually for the three-year term of the project. Following the protocol developed for Phase I, a complete census of the Phase II planting will be conducted in May 1998, two months after planting, to determine the survival rate of trees planted in the first year. Follow-up censuses will be conducted in May of the two subsequent years to determine the survival rate for the second and third years.

Water temperature will be measured daily with automated equipment, and results will be analyzed quarterly throughout the term of the project. Water temperatures will be measured in the stream adjacent to the planting in order to determine whether water temperatures are lowered as the trees and shrubs grow. The students will use automated equipment for measuring water temperatures and will download information from the device at least once per quarter. Analyzed data will be shared with the Juvenile and Adult Spring-Run salmon monitoring programs conducted by the California Department of Fish and Game, and with other appropriate monitoring efforts identified in the Mill Creek Watershed Management Strategy Report.

g. Implementability

The Mill Creek Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, and the Los Molinos School District have developed a strong partnership over the past several years of working together. The Mill Creek Conservancy has been instrumental in developing landowner interest and coordinating potential revegetation sites. The Mill Creek Conservancy has already initiated landowner contacts for selecting a priority site(s) for the Phase II project. The Nature Conservancy contributes the knowledge and expertise in revegetation efforts its staff acquired in the restoration programs along Sacramento River and Dye Creek.

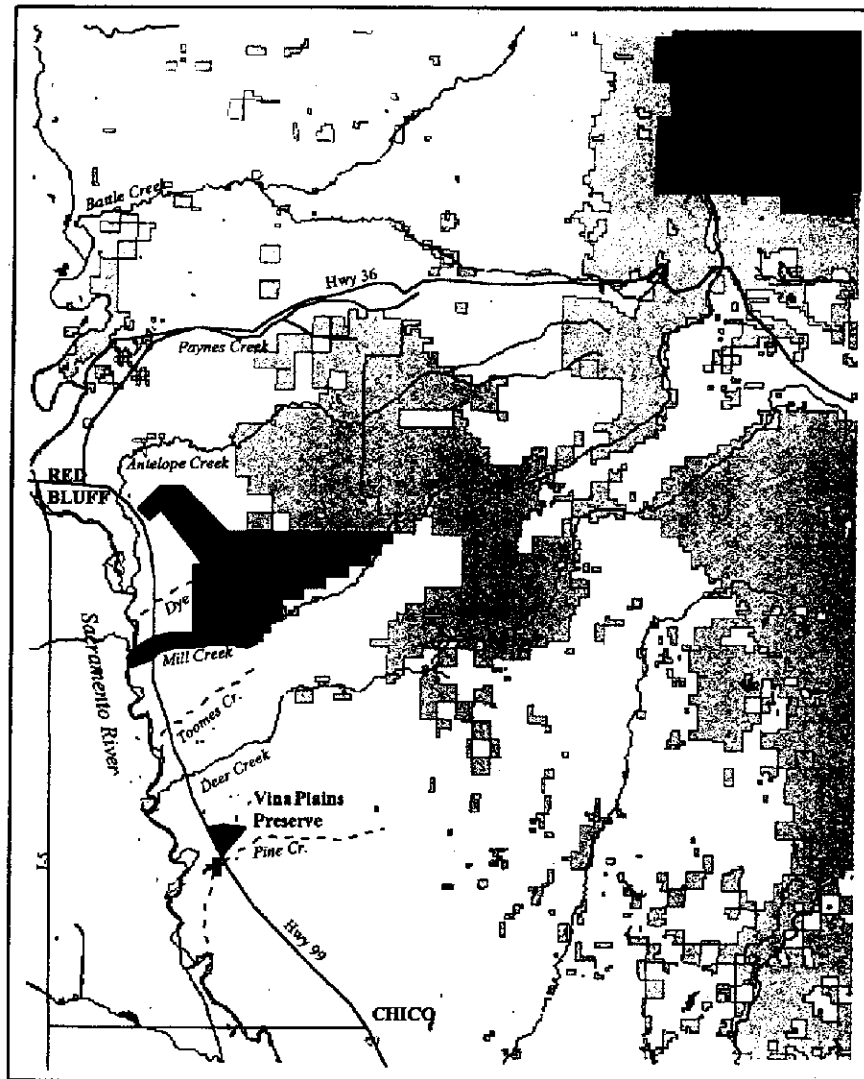
Community support and involvement are an important component of the project. Los Molinos High School students have acquired plant monitoring experience in the Phase I pilot project and in The Nature Conservancy's riparian restoration plantings along Dye Creek. Approximately 90 students participated in the Phase I project as part of their high school curriculum. The landowner of the Phase I site has become actively involved in outreach to showcase the site as a demonstration of restoration techniques. Students have also gained experience monitoring water quality along Mill Creek, Deer Creek and Dye Creek and have developed a native plant nursery for the restoration project with the support of The Nature Conservancy.



MILL CREEK RIPARIAN RESTORATION PROJECT

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Mill Creek riparian vegetation | Potential Phase 2 restoration site |
| Sacramento River riparian vegetation | Floodplain boundary |

The
Nature
Conservancy



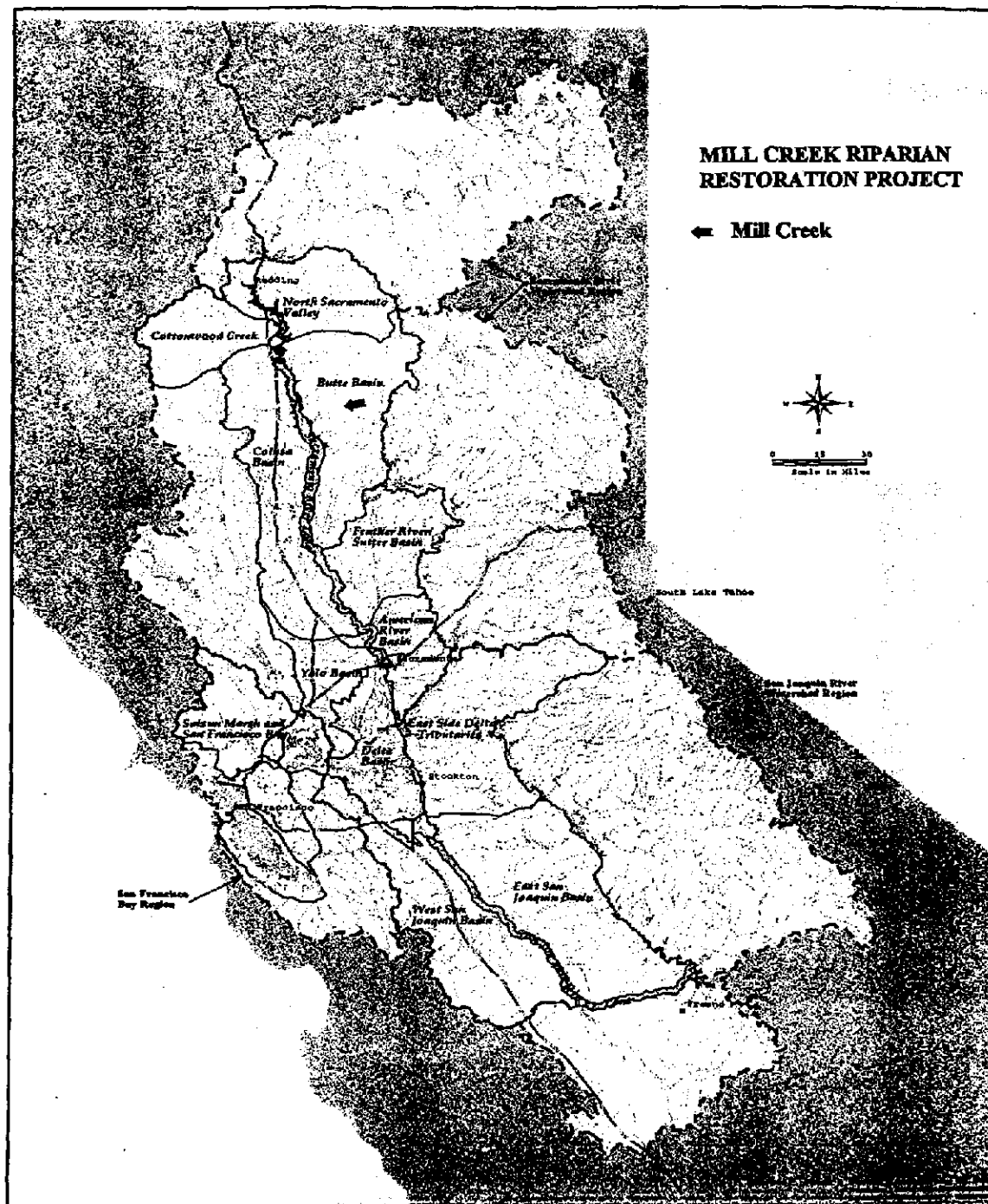
**MILL CREEK
RIPARIAN RESTORATION PROJECT**

0 5
Scale in miles North

- Project Area
- The Nature Conservancy
- Lassen National Park
- Other Public Lands

*The
Nature
Conservancy*

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE OF RFP PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS



IV. Costs and Schedule to Implement Proposed Project

a. Budget costs

Project Phase and Task	Direct Labor Hours	Direct Salary and Benefits	Overhead Labor (General, admin and fee)	Service Contracts	Material and Acquisition Contracts	Miscellaneous and other Direct Costs	Total Cost
Site planning and preparation	175	\$4,000	\$800		\$ 100	\$1,500	\$6,400
Installation and planting	385	\$6,800	\$1,300		\$17,500	\$250	\$25,850
Maintenance and monitoring	1,490	\$24,300	\$4,700	\$4,500	\$400	\$2,850	\$36,750
Totals		\$35,100	\$6,800	\$4,500	\$18,000	\$4,600	\$69,000

This funding request represents the cost of the proposed project to restore riparian habitat on one or more parcels within the identified gaps. This is only a portion of the total cost of protecting and restoring riparian habitat within the Mill Creek watershed. Mill Creek Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy will seek additional public and private funding from other sources, including the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA). The applicants expect to submit future proposals for funding from Category III as well. If CALFED is able to offer only partial funding for the project, the project applicants would be willing to revise the scope of the project accordingly, either by scaling down the project and/or pursuing additional funding sources.

The proposed budget includes salary and benefits costs for Mill Creek Conservancy and Nature Conservancy staff involved in the project. Overhead is calculated on 19.4% of salary and benefits only, which is The Nature Conservancy's federally-approved rate. Some of the labor costs for site preparation and planting may be subcontracted by competitive bid if sufficient staff labor is not available.

The budget includes service contract costs for a sole-source contract with Los Molinos School District. Justification for the sole-source contract is as follows: Los Molinos School District's participation in the project provides significant volunteer support, and helps to promote local community awareness and involvement. In the Phase I pilot restoration project, approximately 90 students contributed nearly 700 hours of volunteer time. While most of the teachers' and students' time is volunteered, funds to cover the School District Education Director's time and expenses are requested under this grant proposal. Los Molinos School District is also the only locally-based education program in the immediate project area. Proximity to the project site also increases the students' ability to monitor the project effectively.

Contribution of in-kind services through landowner and student participation are anticipated throughout the life of the project. Volunteer days and activities will be recorded and reported with quarterly progress reports. In addition, The Nature Conservancy has contributed staff time and supplies to developing riparian revegetation strategies, including Phase I of this project. The Mill Creek Conservancy has contributed the time its leadership spent in working with landowners.

b. Schedule milestones

The following schedule is based on the federal fiscal year calendar. This schedule assumes that grant approval will be made by October 1, 1997 (beginning of FY 1998) and that work will begin following grant approval. If grant approval is received later than that date, this schedule will be adjusted to be consistent with the appropriate planting cycle.

By end of 1st quarter FY 1998:

- complete detailed site plan
- complete site preparation
- purchase supplies and equipment
- install irrigation system

By end of 2nd quarter FY 1998:

- collect native plant materials
- complete planting of native shrubs and trees
- develop monitoring protocol
- submit biannual progress report

3rd quarter FY 1998 through end of FY 2000

- annual monitoring of planting
- ongoing maintenance of planting
- quarterly monitoring of water temperature
- submit biannual progress reports

End of FY 2000

- evaluation of monitoring results
- submit final report

c. Third-party impacts

The proposed project is not expected to have any significant third-party impacts. Much of the surrounding land is in residential or agricultural use. The proposed restoration project should not impact or interfere with these uses on surrounding land.

V. Applicant Qualifications

The Mill Creek Conservancy is a non-profit conservation organization formed by landowners in 1994. The organization is dedicated to the local approach for continued preservation and management of the Mill Creek watershed ecosystem. The Mill Creek Conservancy has effectively organized cooperative efforts among landowners, public agencies and other stakeholders to pursue conservation and restoration projects. It has successfully rallied support and raised funds from numerous local, state, and federal agencies for projects that are consistent with the *Mill Creek Watershed Management Strategy Report* (January 1997). Additional accomplishments include the development and adoption of the Deer and Mill Creek Protection Act (AB 1413); Mill Creek Watershed Program funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); a GIS mapping project funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF); a partnership with the Los Molinos School District to provide hands-on learning experience for students; and participation in a revegetation project funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

The Nature Conservancy is an international, private, non-profit membership organization whose mission is to preserve plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. The Conservancy has over 45 years of experience in identifying, protecting, and managing significant natural areas. Its strength and reputation are built on the policy and practice of applying the best conservation science available and of building partnerships with local communities, private organizations, and public agencies to achieve mutual conservation goals.

The Nature Conservancy of California uses a wide variety of tools to help forge solutions to conservation issues. We employ the following four methods most frequently: land acquisition, land management and restoration, land-use planning and conflict resolution, and community education and outreach.

Several of The Nature Conservancy's landmark conservation projects have focused on riparian ecosystems. Conservation efforts for these complex natural communities must include maintaining and restoring the natural processes that are essential to the long-term health of the hydrological system. In addition, The Nature Conservancy strives to balance the protection and restoration of natural communities with compatible human uses.

VI. Compliance with Standard Terms and Conditions

The applicants acknowledge the requirement of the Standard Clauses for service and consultant service contracts for \$5,000 and over with nonpublic entities (Item 2), as described in the Terms and Conditions of the 1997 Category III Request for Proposal. However, the applicants request an exception to the Reimbursement Clause to allow for applicants' use of their own existing internal travel policies regarding reimbursement of travel expenses, rather than the per diem and travel rates used by State employees. This exception would allow for more efficient reporting of travel costs within our existing finance system. A copy of our internal travel policy is available upon request.

The Nondiscrimination Compliance Statement form is attached, as required under the Terms and Conditions of the 1997 Category III Request for Proposal.

NONDISCRIMINATION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, 201 Mission St., 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105
 COMPANY NAME

The company named above (hereinafter referred to as "prospective contractor") hereby certifies, unless specifically exempted, compliance with Government Code Section 12990 (a-f) and California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Division 4, Chapter 5 in matters relating to reporting requirements and the development, implementation and maintenance of a Nondiscrimination Program. Prospective contractor agrees not to unlawfully discriminate, harass or allow harassment against any employee or applicant for employment because of sex, race, color, ancestry, religious creed, national origin, disability (including HIV and AIDS), medical condition (cancer), age, marital status, denial of family and medical care leave and denial of pregnancy disability leave.

CERTIFICATION

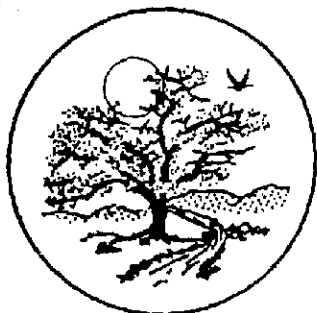
I, the official named below, hereby swear that I am duly authorized to legally bind the prospective contractor to the above described certification. I am fully aware that this certification, executed on the date and in the county below, is made under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California.

Steve McCormick
 OFFICIAL'S NAME
 7/24/97
 DATE EXECUTED
 PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S SIGNATURE
 EXECUTED IN THE COUNTY OF
 San Francisco
 Regional Director, Vice President
 PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S TITLE
 The Nature Conservancy
 PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR'S LEGAL BUSINESS NAME

NONDISCRIMINATION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

Item 8

COMPANY NAME MILL CREEK CONSTRUCTION	
The company named above (hereinafter referred to as "prospective contractor") hereby certifies, unless specifically exempted, compliance with Government Code Section 12990 (a-f) and California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Division 4, Chapter 5 in matters relating to reporting requirements and the development, implementation and maintenance of a Nondiscrimination Program. Prospective contractor agrees not to unlawfully discriminate, harass or allow harassment against any employee or applicant for employment because of sex, race, color, ancestry, religion, creed, national origin, disability (including HIV and AIDS), medical condition (cancer), age, marital status, denial of family and medical care leave and denial of pregnancy disability leave.	
CERTIFICATION	
I, the official named below, hereby swear that I am duly authorized to legally bind the prospective contractor to the above described certification. I am fully aware that this certification, executed on the date and in the county below, is made under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California.	OFFICIAL'S NAME KERRY L. BUCKLE
DATE EXECUTED 7-23-97	COUNTY OF THE COUNTY OF TEHAMA
SIGNATURE OF CONTRACTOR'S REPRESENTATIVE [Signature]	TITLE COORDINATOR
SIGNATURE OF WITNESS [Signature]	TITLE WITNESS



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CalServe Partners in Education
A School and Community Educational Partnership
Los Molinos Unified School District

July 21, 1997

Lester Snow
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 19th Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, Ca 95814

RE: Proposal for 1997 Category III funds - Mill Creek Riparian Restoration Project

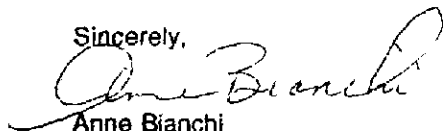
Dear Mr. Snow,

This letter is in support of the Mill Creek Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy Proposal for the Mill Creek Riparian Restoration Project. The project will restore native riparian vegetation along Mill Creek. In addition, students, teachers and landowners will have the opportunity to work together in needed restoration activities.

I serve as the director of the Los Molinos Unified School District Partners in Education PIE Program. The PIE program is a school and community partnership dedicated to service learning. Service learning is a teaching strategy which allows students to meet community needs while learning their academic core subjects. The PIE program was founded in 1991 and has developed a strong working partnership with The Nature Conservancy centered at Dye Creek Preserve. In 1995, the PIE program developed a partnership with the Mill Creek Conservancy to implement two very successful projects: EPA grant that produced the Mill Creek Watershed Management Strategy Report (January 1997) and a vegetation project funded by USFWS. These hands-on service learning opportunities allows students an opportunity to give back to their community, develop a sense of civic pride and stewardship, and gives students the chance to develop the knowledge and skills to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

I support the Mill Creek Riparian Restoration Project and urge you to give it full funding consideration.

Sincerely,



Anne Bianchi

Anne Bianchi, Director
P.O. Box 609, Los Molinos, CA 96055
PHONE: (916) 527-8751 FAX: (916) 384-1534 E-MAIL: abianchi@lmusd.tehama.k12.ca.us

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THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Background Information

The Nature Conservancy's Conservation Mission

The Nature Conservancy preserves plants, animals, and natural communities that comprise the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. Operating in the United States for the past forty years, the Conservancy also has launched programs in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific to help protect millions of acres outside the United States. The operator of the largest private system of nature sanctuaries in the world, the Conservancy owns and manages more than 1,500 preserves throughout the U.S.

How The Nature Conservancy Got Started

The Nature Conservancy emerged in 1951 from a professional association of ecologists seeking to turn their knowledge of nature into positive action for conservation. The Conservancy started its tradition of conservation through private action with a modest 60-acre land purchase in New York state. Today, using the same market-oriented strategy, the Conservancy has protected more than 9.3 million acres of ecologically significant land.

How The Nature Conservancy Identifies Land for Protection

State Natural Heritage Inventory Programs, usually administered by a state agency, identify rare natural elements and their locations within a particular state. In Latin America these inventory programs are termed Conservation Data Centers. The scientific information gathered by the inventory indicates the relative rarity of plant and animal species, aquatic and plant communities, and whether or not they are protected. Once species are identified and ranked, the areas that house critically threatened species become the target of Conservancy projects.

How The Nature Conservancy Protects Habitat

The Conservancy uses non-confrontational, market-based economic solutions to protect habitat -- a win-win approach to conservation. Working only with willing sellers and donors, the Conservancy protects land through gifts, exchanges, conservation easements, management agreements, purchases from the Conservancy's revolving Land Preservation Fund, debt-for-nature swaps, and management partnerships. The resulting preserves are managed with the most sophisticated ecological techniques available.

How The Nature Conservancy Manages Protected Areas

The Conservancy's stewardship staff and volunteers manage the more than 1,500 preserves through restoration techniques such as prescribed burnings, reforestation, fencing, and the removal of alien species. These duties both maintain the preserves and encourage the growth of the endangered plants and animals that live there. Most Conservancy preserves are open to the public for educational uses and recreation such as hiking, nature study, bird watching, and photography.

- more -

The Conservancy's International Program

Because the Conservancy's mission is global, it has expanded its programs to encompass areas outside the United States. The Pacific program, headquartered in Hawaii, is working to identify and protect threatened areas in Indonesia, Melanesia, and Micronesia. In Latin America, the Conservancy has joined forces with over 45 organizations covering 25 countries to provide infrastructure, community development, professional training and long-term funding for legally protected but underfunded areas throughout the continent. The Conservancy has pioneered debt-for-nature swaps in Latin America and worked with partners on projects that demonstrate that conservation and development can be compatible.

The Nature Conservancy: A Scorecard (as of December 1996)

<u>Acres Protected in the U.S. since 1953:</u>	10,088,000
<u>Acres Protected outside the U.S.</u>	
<u>With TNC Assistance:</u>	44 million
<u>Acres Managed:</u> (Counts acres The Conservancy owns or has under conservation easement)	1,500,000
<u>Membership:</u>	900,704
<u>Corporate Associates:</u>	1,500
<u>Preserves Under Conservancy Management:</u> (each preserve may be composed of a number of land conservation projects owned in fee, protected by conservation easements)	1,500
<u>Natural Heritage Inventory Programs and Conservation Data Centers:</u>	86

The
Nature
Conservancy

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